

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
5/18/08 – 5/31/08**

**DISTRICT 1**

CO Jason Niemi is investigating a poaching of a deer, a poaching of a turkey, and a complaint of timber theft on state land.

COs Jason Wicklund, David Painter and Ryan Aho assisted with the search of a local fisherman who died after his boat capsized on the Michigamme River near Peavy Pond. The fisherman was recovered the following day after the Michigan State Police (MSP) Dive Team conducted a grid search of the area.

**DISTRICT 2**

CO Derek Miller contacted several unregistered campers in a State Forest Campground. All subjects had failed to pay the site fee and one of the campers was observed operating an ORV illegally on the shoreline. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Hammill encountered several anglers fishing a brook trout lake that was restricted to artificial bait only. All were without fishing licenses and in possession of live bait. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Luce County lakes, CO Mike Hammill contacted several anglers in possession of undersized walleye and Northern Pike. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Bob Madden investigated a wildfire near Lake Superior that started when a vehicle caught on fire. The investigation is ongoing.

CO Reid Roeske contacted a subject in violation of the ORV statute. During the contact, CO Roeske found the subject was wanted on a warrant out of Munising. He arrested and lodged the subject in the Alger County jail.

**DISTRICT 3**

CO Duane Budreau responded to complaints of ORVs operating unlawfully on state land. CO Budreau was able to locate the subjects and tickets were issued to several of the operators.

CO Andrea Erratt ticketed five ORV operators in the Chandler Hills area of Charlevoix County for various ORV offenses.

CO Carl Vanderwall arrested a subject operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated. The subject pulled over in front of CO Vanderwall and stumbled out of his vehicle. A search

subsequent to the arrest resulted in possession of marijuana to be added onto the charge.

CO Michael Feagan responded to a complaint of a “mudder” truck stuck in a prohibited area adjacent to the Sturgeon River. CO Feagan found the vehicle being driven down the shoulder of the road with a flat tire. An admission was received from the driver regarding operating in a closed area on state land and driving over berms. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joe Molnar contacted an ORV operator who was located by the DNR aircraft operating in a wetland. It was the subject’s fourth offense for operating an ORV in a closed area on state land. The ORV was impounded and possible condemnation of the ORV is forthcoming.

CO Kelly Ross assisted in a search and rescue of a missing 16 year old on an ORV. CO Ross contacted the subject by cell phone and talked him out of the woods.

CO Kelly Ross responded to a deer feeding complaint in which the subject intentionally put the deer feed onto a neighbor’s property. He was ticketed for feeding deer in a closed county.

COs Bobbi Bashore and William Webster assisted in a search and rescue operation for overdue boaters on the Thunder Bay River system. The COs located the disoriented boaters early in the morning and returned them to shore.

CO Eric Bottorff located subjects who had driven in a prohibited area to get to a fishing spot. CO Bottorff then found two hidden undersized bass in the subjects’ possession, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Eric Bottorff and Sgt. Greg Drogowski tracked down a mushroom hunter operating an ORV in the Pigeon River Country State Forest. Upon seeing the COs, the subject quickly left the area and attempted to load his ORV onto his trailer. Enforcement action was taken.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

COs conducted group patrols in Lake County targeting the ORV trails and ticketed several persons operating illegally. Tickets issued included operating on the roadway, operating without helmets, operating on the trail without trail permits, operating with passengers when not allowed, and operating where prohibited.

CO Carla Soper arrested a subject in Manistee County for owing more than \$28,000 in child support after determining that the subject was fishing without a license. The subject also received a ticket for the fishing violation.

CO Mike Wells responded to a complaint in Newaygo County of subjects taking overlimits of steelhead. He checked one of the subjects at the boat launch and found multiple limits of steelhead in the subject's vehicle. The subject told CO Wells that his friends had returned to fishing. CO Wells located the group of anglers and found that additional fish had been taken. One of the subjects was cited for an over limit of steelhead.

COs Mike Bomay and Troy Mueller were conducting a boat patrol and observed a subject lay something in the water and then motor away. The COs stopped the boat and found no violations at that time. With binoculars the COs observed something floating in the water where the subject's boat had been. A check of the object revealed it to be a bag of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells received information that a subject had taken a fawn from the wild and was keeping it at a residence. CO Wells went to the location and spoke to the subject. A fawn was recovered that the subject had been feeding for three days. The fawn was in bad shape and died the next day. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sam Koscinski and Sgt. Michelle Wiegand contacted two subjects fishing on the Hodenpyl backwaters in Wexford County. The subjects did not have personal flotation devices, and one of the subjects had an outstanding DNR warrant for possession of an uncased bow in a motor vehicle. The subject was ticketed for failing to provide personal flotation devices and bond was collected for the warrant.

CO Jair Kollasch contacted a subject operating his golf cart on the roadway in Wexford County. The subject had been warned several times for the same violation in the past by both CO Kollasch and Sgt. Michelle Wiegand. This time the subject was ticketed.

COs Diane Drogowski and Bob Torres checked a camp near Headquarters Lake and found two subjects with four undersized bass. One subject was ticketed for the illegal fish and lodged in the Wexford County jail on an outstanding warrant.

COs Diane Drogowski and Bob Torres contacted a vehicle on a trail in Grand Traverse County. When the occupants saw the COs, they began moving around nervously inside the vehicle. Upon contacting the occupants, the COs located marijuana hidden in the vehicle. One of the individuals has had prior charges and was on a deferred sentence. Enforcement action taken.

CO Diane Drogowski was observing anglers on Arbutus Lake the evening prior to the bass season opener. CO Drogowski watched one subject catch a bass, hold it up for the other anglers to see, then put the fish in his tackle box. When CO Drogowski contacted the angler, he was also found to be fishing without a license. A ticket was issued for possession of the bass during the closed season.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO Mark Lutz and CO Chris Bowen assisted DNR Wildlife Division personnel in removing a black bear that had been wandering around the Grayling city limits and was eventually treed. The COs closed off the area to onlookers while the bear was tranquilized. The bear was transported and released in a remote area of northern lower Michigan.

CO Steve Lockwood encountered a group of 13 rowdy campers in the Trout Lake State Forest Campground, some of whom were intoxicated. With the assistance of Sheriff's Department deputies, CO Lockwood made arrests for possession of marijuana and disorderly conduct in the campground.

COs Joel Lundberg and Steve Lockwood observed a subject fishing from shore. When the COs approached the subject, he bolted and ran into the woods. After failing to locate the individual on foot, the COs impounded the subject's vehicle from the access site. A few hours later, the subject called and turned himself in. A ticket was issued for fishing without a license.

CO Tami Pullen responded to a fire in Iosco County where the preliminary investigation revealed the fire started from ashes in a burn barrel. The barrel was in a forested area and the subject allowed the fire to escape. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO Larn Strawn contacted the operator of a vessel on Coldwater Lake occupied by four subjects. Three of the four were fishing and standing on a small platform on the bow of the vessel. During the contact, the CO discovered the vessel operator had no life preservers on board and several other marine safety violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Lowell observed an ORV operating on the roadway and activated his emergency lights to stop the vehicle. The ORV then increased its speed and attempted to flee from the CO. The CO chased the vehicle with lights and sirens activated for approximately six miles down a county road. The ORV then drove through a field and into a swamp where it got stuck. The subject was taken into custody and lodged in the county jail for attempted flee and elude. The subject was also issued tickets for operating on the roadway and trespass.

CO Jeremy Payne and Sgt. Ron Kimmerly worked areas along the Chippewa River where tubers and canoeists stop and leave their litter. The COs witnessed littering, trespassing, indecent exposure, and other violations. The COs issued 10 tickets and gave 11 verbal warnings.

CO Dan Lee and Sgt. Ron Kimmerly were patrolling the Saginaw River when they saw a subject washing his hands in the river. When the COs pulled up to the bank the subject took off running. The subject was contacted and the COs found that he was wanted on four outstanding arrest warrants. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 7**

COs Steve Orange and Dave Rodgers patrolled Reeds Lake in response to complaints of overlimits of panfish. The COs ticketed one subject who possessed 41 crappie over the limit.

CO Jeff Ginn investigated an ORV trespass complaint and recovered a stolen dirt bike that had been pushed into a private gravel pit pond. CO Ginn loaded the recovered dirt bike and delivered it to the Ionia County Sheriff's Department.

CO Jeff Ginn responded to a call for assistance from MSP troopers who had a group of canoeists on the Flat River flee while being investigated for alcohol violations. Troopers apprehended all but one of the party, who had jumped into the river to escape. CO Ginn used his canoe to locate and subsequently apprehend the fleeing subject. The subject was wanted on several outstanding arrest warrants and was also charged with resisting and obstructing.

COs Jeff Ginn and Jeff Rabbers were on a marine patrol on the Grand River when they observed subjects at a fire pit with thick black smoke coming from the fire. The subjects were burning tires and recovering the metal rims to sell as scrap metal. A ticket was issued for the illegal disposal of solid waste by burning.

COs Gary Raak and Jeff Rabbers, along with Sgt. Dave Shaw, responded to a possible turkey poaching complaint. The COs met with the complainant, who turned over a large male turkey that had been shot with a shotgun. The complainant stated he heard a gunshot from the roadway as he went to retrieve his mail. The complainant observed four subjects and an empty gun case in a vehicle. After the subjects left the scene, the complainant found the hidden gunshot bird. The COs went to the subject's residence and obtained confessions from several of the subjects, leading to the arrest of the subject responsible for shooting the turkey.

## **DISTRICT 8**

COs Rich Nickols, John Meka, and Benjamin Black worked a group patrol on the Grand River and located numerous subjects fishing without licenses. The COs also observed a subject smoking illegal drugs. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Rich Nickols and Ben Black assisted the MSP with the search for evidence in a murder investigation.

CO Bahlau and Sgt. Joe Kellam responded to a complaint of two subjects bow fishing for carp, killing the fish, and throwing them back into the water. The subjects were also fishing from a boat with an expired registration. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 9**

CO Gerard Goulette responded to a call from the local Sheriff Department about a subject who shot a Canadian goose with a BB gun. CO Goulette located the subject who admitted to shooting the goose to keep it off his lawn. The goose was recovered from the private lake and enforcement action taken.

CO John Borkovich was waived down by a boater who reported seeing a truck drive into the St Clair River. Witnesses reported the truck went into the river at a high rate of speed without a driver. While the truck was still floating, a subject believed to be the driver swam to the truck and back to shore. The subject was found a short time later in possession of illegal drugs and was taken into custody.

While on marine patrol, CO Linda Scheidler observed a subject fishing from the end of a dock. As she approached, the subject started to walk away and denied fishing. He then attempted to use a false name. The subject eventually admitted to fishing and gave his real name. Enforcement action was taken.